

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
December 18, 2002

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, December 18, 2002, scheduled for 8:30 a.m., in the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Council Chambers, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, California.

Members Present: *Kerry Arnett, Ann Guerra, Chet Krage, *Elizabeth Martin, Linda Stevens, Josh Susman, Peter Van Zant

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner.

Standing Orders: Chairman Van Zant convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

1. Financial Reports: No discussion.
2. Correspondence: No discussion.
3. Executive Director's Report:

Joint Meeting with Caltrans and Nevada County Transportation Issues

Executive Director Landon stated that at the meeting held on December 6th with Caltrans District 3 Director Jody Lonergan, Caltrans staff had stated the Dorsey Drive interchange original construction schedule may be delayed from beginning in 2006 to starting in 2008. Mr. Landon recommended to the Commission that the same local representatives who attended that meeting, meet again with Caltrans in January to review the Dorsey Drive interchange project to try and establish a schedule that would better meet the needs of all the agencies involved.

*Commissioner Arnett arrived.

Chairman Van Zant reviewed with the Commission what Caltrans had stated were the reasons for the delay of construction on the Dorsey Drive interchange.

*Commissioner Martin arrived.

After a brief discussion, the Commissioners agreed to a tentative meeting date for January 23rd. Tom Brannon, Caltrans Project Manager, will provide the original Caltrans schedule with the new schedule to assist in reviewing where shortcuts could be made in construction of the interchange. Commissioners Van Zant, Stevens, and Susman will attend this meeting.

Brunswick Interchange Landscape Project

Commissioner Susman stated that this project showed great community effort and asked if recognition for the participants could be made. Executive Director Landon responded that this would be done.

Truckee Transit Issues

In response to Commissioner Krage's question of what action was being taken regarding the findings of Truckee's transit needs, Executive Director Landon stated he would be communicating the "transit operations related issues" to Alex Terrazas of the Town of Truckee and to the consultant, LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc., for incorporation into the transit development plan. Also he would author a letter to Caltrans from the people living near the "Mousehole" in Truckee highlighting their safety concerns.

Brunswick Corridor Study

In response to Chairman Van Zant's question regarding the status of the Brunswick Corridor Study, John Rumsey, Senior Engineer, Nevada County Department of Transportation, stated that the County was doing an alternative analysis study of the Loma Rica intersection and would possibly have a report ready for public review by early February. After a brief Commission discussion, Commissioner Arnett motioned to hold a public workshop for the Brunswick Corridor Study and Loma Rica intersection analysis. Commissioner Krage seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, February 19th between five and seven o'clock p.m. at the City Hall in Nevada City before the Commission meeting begins at seven p.m.

4. Caltrans District 3 Report, Tom Brannon, Project Manager:

The following is a synopsis of Mr. Brannon's comments on the recent state budget crisis and the impact it will have on Nevada County transportation projects:

Caltrans is reexamining all of its uncanceled projects (which are those funded through Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA/ED) or Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E)) to determine if any of them need to be removed since the financial resources for construction are no longer there. The SR 89 "Mousehole" PA/ED project will be completed because the Town of Truckee has decided to be the lead agency. The widening of SR 49 from Wolf/Combie Road to Grass Valley is fully funded through the design process. This project has been identified as a longterm need and Caltrans has every expectation of funding it, a piece at a time, in order to get it completed. Due to the reduction in funding, Caltrans staff will be doing the environmental studies for SR 49 instead of hiring private consultants as previously planned. Mr. Brannon noted that there has been no discussion regarding cutting existing funded projects, only those identified as future needs that do not have an identifiable funding source. The Dorsey Drive interchange is fully funded. SHOPP projects such as the SR 20 safety project is programmed and funded as well as the Pekolee Drive safety project on SR 49. Caltrans does have overall priorities for spending during this kind of budget crisis; safety jobs are at the top. Many rehabilitation and landscape jobs will be at risk of not proceeding forward.

Chairman Van Zant asked Mr. Brannon what action had been taken regarding the \$1.8 million savings from the SR 49 widening project at the Bear River Bridge to Wolf/Combie Road. Mr. Brannon responded he plans to go to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) at its February meeting to ask for the local share of that money (46%) to be returned.

Mr. Brannon reviewed with the Commission his handout on the status of projects in Nevada County. The following projects are ones the Commissioners discussed or requested further information:

- Dorsey Drive Interchange: As soon as the NCTC's traffic model is received by Caltrans, the design team will know in five to six months what will need to be done if anything with the weave problem at the Idaho Maryland/East Main onramp. At that time, Mr. Brannon will return to the Commission to outline the various alternatives and what action will be needed concerning the weave.
- Construct Roundabout at Gold Flat Road: Mr. Landon will be invited to a Project Development Team (PDT) meeting to be held in January. The Caltrans design staff has completed a preliminary review of this area which indicates a roundabout can be put in without removing utilities or taking extra right-of-way. Chairman Van Zant asked Mr. Brannon to invite Nevada City's Engineer and City Manager to attend the PDT meeting.
- SR 49 from Wolf/Combie to Grass Valley: Mr. Brannon stated that the maps provided to the Commissioners showed the existing SR 49 Corridor between Wolf/Combie Road and Grass Valley and a design concept of what it would look like in 50 years. The frontage roads for the 50-year design concept have already been discussed with the staffs of the County and the City of Grass Valley and changes have occurred. In spring, Caltrans will be meeting with community groups and individuals to discuss the frontage roads issues.

After a Commission discussion ensued regarding plans for accesses along SR 49, Commissioner Krage questioned how the highway will be classified when completed in the 50-year plan. Mr. Brannon responded it would be an expressway. Mr. Landon noted that an expressway is "limited access" via collector roads. A full access control corridor is essentially a freeway, with no direct access from county roads. This corridor will be an expressway which can have at-grade intersections.

Mr. Brannon stated this was a preliminary meeting, not a workshop, to provide the Commission an idea of what is planned for the corridor. The alignment of the five lanes was an established factor, but the frontage roads design concept was open for discussion and changes. A discussion ensued regarding the Commission's need to have a consensus or consistent point of view and when and how to present this information to the public and provide direction to Caltrans. Commissioner Krage noted that the Commission needed to see more information before they could make decisions on what they would like done. The Commission agreed to have a workshop before the information was presented to the public.

A discussion ensued regarding a developer's plans for access from the Bear River Mill site to SR 49 and the Commission's role related to developer projects and, if and when, information the Commission receives should be brought forward to the public.

CONSENT ITEMS:

5. NCTC Minutes: November 20, 2002. Approved. (Commissioners Guerra and Susman abstained)

Break at 10:00 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

6. Arthur Bauer and Associates, Inc.: Presentation of report entitled, "Local Funding Options for Regional Transportation".

Executive Director Landon noted he had provided a brief staff summary of the objectives and recommendations of the report and asked that after Commission discussion, staff be given direction to integrate this report into future planning efforts since there was a need to develop additional funding sources for the community.

After Mr. Bauer and his staff provided an overview of their report, Executive Director Landon noted that as a public agency, the Commission could provide information to the public to get their opinion or perception of the revenue mechanisms and how they would utilize them. However, in order to get a funding mechanism in place, some group or organization other than a public agency would have to be willing to pursue it and present it to the community for a vote.

After the Commission discussed the report, Chairman Van Zant summarized that the study had met the Commission's request to look at what resources were available, what financial shortfalls there were, and provide recommendations. A motion was made by Commissioner Martin to accept the Arthur Bauer financial report. Commissioner Susman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Guerra requested that on page twenty of the report under the heading, *Recommended Next Steps*, to move recommendation number four to the position of number one and asked that the recommendation of the "do nothing" scenario include an estimate of the amount of the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) to be accrued.

After the Commission discussed ideas on what steps should be taken next, Chairman Van Zant directed staff to come back to the Commission with a proposed agenda for a workshop that would include who was to be invited and what the expected outcome would be.

7. Transfer of Lead Agency on SR 89 Widening at the "Mousehole".

Executive Director Landon stated that because Caltrans did not have sufficient resources to move this project forward to be accomplished in accordance with the way it is programmed in the State Transportation Improvement Program, a change in lead agency status was needed. Truckee is willing to manage the project. He requested adoption of Resolution 02-37 which requests that the California Transportation Commission make the change in lead agency status.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to adopt Resolution 02-37. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Closed Session: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, Employee Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director, Daniel B. Landon.

The Commission discussed the performance of the Executive Director and agreed to renew his contract.

9. Renewal of Employment Agreement: Executive Director:

A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to adopt Resolution 02-38 and to authorize the Chairman to sign the renewed agreement between the Commission and the Executive Director. Commissioner Guerra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments were made.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No comments were made.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 15, 2003 at 8:30 a.m., at the City Council Chambers in Grass Valley.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Nancy D. Holman, Administrative Services Officer

Approved on: _____

By: _____
Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission